

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/803,492

Examiner

Lam P. Pham

Applicant(s)

YOSHINORI ET AL.

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/1/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-12 and 14-41.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Schmidt on March 17, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 7: delete [and] after "predetermined time,".

In claim 1, line 9: change "the tiredness degree" to "a tiredness degree".

In claim 1, line 10: delete [wherein] after "compartment," and insert on new line:
"cooling means for cooling said seat and"

"cooling control means for controlling cooling by said cooling means based on results of judgment by said tiredness judging means, wherein"

In claim 1, line 15: delete [.] after "the tiredness degree" and insert ";" and insert on new line:

"said seat heating system is provided with heating means for heating the seat,
and

said means for judging the tiredness degree is provided with seated person information detecting means for detecting seated person information relating to the seated person sitting on said seat, tiredness judging means for judging if said seated person is tired based on said seated person information, and heating control means for

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controlling the heating by said heating means based on the results of judgment by said tiredness judging means.”

Claims 2 and 13 are canceled.

In claim 3, line 1: change “claim 2” to “claim 1”.

In claim 6, line 1: change “claim 2” to “claim 1”.

In claim 14, line 1: change “claim 13” to “claim 1”.

In claim 17, line 1: change “claim 13” to “claim 1”.

In claim 24, line 1: change “claim 2” to “claim 1”.

In claim 27, delete from line 5th to line 9th.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-41 allowed.

3. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no prior art fairly teach or suggest a vehicle tiredness alleviating system comprising:

a seat heating system for heating the surface of a seat;

at least one of a vehicle air-conditioning system for controlling a temperature in a passenger compartment, and a seat vibration system for repeatedly vibrating a seat for a predetermined time,

means for judging a tiredness degree of a passenger seated on a seat in said passenger compartment,

cooling means for cooling said seat, and

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cooling control means for controlling cooling by said cooling means based on results of judgment by said tiredness judging means, wherein

said vehicle tiredness alleviating system performs at least one of temperature control of said vehicle air-conditioning system, temperature control of said seat heating system, and control of the vibration strength or vibration time of said seat vibration system based on the tiredness degree of said passenger, which is judged by said means for judging the tiredness degree,

said seat heating system is provided with heating means for heating the seat, and

said means for judging the tiredness degree is provided with seated person information detecting means for detecting seated person information relating to the seated person sitting on said seat, tiredness judging means for judging if said seated person is tired based on said seated person information, and heating control means for controlling the heating by said heating means based on the results of judgment by said tiredness judging means.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

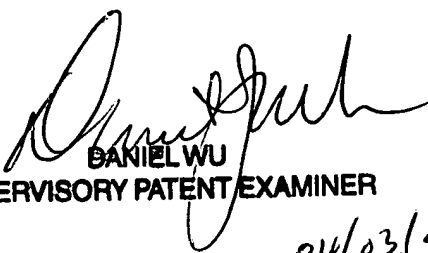
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lam P. Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-2977. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-7PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lam Pham
March 21, 2006.


DANIEL WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
04/03/06